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) Art Unit: Unassigned

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Dear Sirs:

- ☒ AUTHORIZATION TO PAY AND PETITION FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF ANY NECESSARY FEES: If any charges or fees must be paid in connection with the following Communication (including but not limited to the payment of issue fees), they may be paid out of our deposit account No. 12-0064. If this payment also requires a Petition, please construe this authorization to pay as the necessary Petition which is required to accompany the payment.
- ☐ Applicant herewith petitions the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to extend the time for response to the Office Action dated \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ month(s) from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_. Submitted herewith is check No. \_\_\_\_\_ for \$\_\_\_\_\_ to cover the cost of the extension. If a check is lost, or otherwise does not accompany this Petition, please charge my deposit account number 12-0064 in the appropriate amount to cover the cost of the extension. Any deficiency or overpayment should be charged or credited to the above numbered deposit account.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to:  
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks,  
Washington, D.C. 20231 on:  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## REGISTRATION

**LAFF, WHITESEL & SARET LTD.**  
401 North Michigan Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60611-4212  
(312) 661-2100; Fax: (312) 661-0029

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

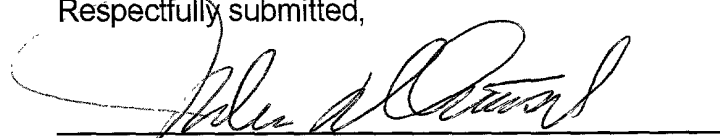
Preliminary to the examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application, as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 4, line 1, change "4" to --3--.

Dated: 12/18/00

Respectfully submitted,



J. Warren Whitesel  
Registration No. 16830  
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401 North Michigan Avenue - Suite 1700  
Chicago, Illinois 60611  
Telephone 312-661-2100  
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